

Notable Names in the Minutes

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Most of the people who testify at legislative hearings are "regular" people—active citizens or members of organizations who want to make their voices heard about proposed legislation. However, in our committee minutes scanning project, famous names sometimes jump out at us. Here are a few examples:

- Musician Willie Nelson was the second individual to testify at the [House Committee on Government Organization](#) public hearing on [April 4, 1989](#). Nelson spoke in favor of [SB 489, 71R](#), a sunset bill that provided for the continuation of the Department of Agriculture. Noted in the minutes: "Chair recognized Willie Nelson of Austin, Texas, representing himself, as well as rabbits and horned toads." Congresswoman Barbara Jordan "of Austin, Texas, representing herself"—the Texas Legislature's own past [Sen. Jordan](#)—testified immediately following Nelson.
- On [March 11, 2009](#), the 81st Legislature's [House Committee on Appropriations](#) heard from Linda Gray and Larry Hagman, actors of *Dallas* fame, regarding film incentive funding.
- Sometimes you have to know your Texas history—and possible name misspellings—to spot the notable figure mention. In the 39th Legislature (1925), the [House Committee to Investigate Certain State Departments](#) was charged with, among other items, investigating "the administration of highway affairs by the State Highway Commission." Former [Rep. Sam Johnson](#), at the time a section foreman with the Highway Commission, testified before the committee, and [he talks about his son, "Linden Johnson,"](#) who was driving tractors and helping Sam with payroll. "Lyndon" is the correct spelling of Rep. Johnson's son's name—as in future U.S. president Lyndon Baines Johnson!